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Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social, Ecológica y Cultural, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Teaching the values of understanding, respect and tolerance through gender equality.

For the attention of the organizers of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Ayuda Social, Ecológica y Cultural would like to make the following proposals for this event:

(1) One of the clear consequences of the actions taken since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and which we believe should be made clear in our society, in the media, through education and in all actions in the fight for gender equality, is that, thanks to women's better performance and their empowerment, economies are growing more quickly and families are healthier and better educated.

That is one of the main strengths which we can use to drive home our objective, at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, of showing that in all countries, be they developed, developing or still undeveloped, the change in the global status of women is already having a fundamental effect across the world and that when women gain greater equality, they become generators of a better economy in their own countries, they help improve the health of the population and they raise the level of education of society.

(2) The method that we propose to improve levels of equality and to ensure that women are treated under completely equal conditions as men is something that should begin in schools and at home and extend across society.

But what does that mean?

Through educational activities in schools and at home and through teachers, social workers and NGOs, education in values, which is so necessary in today's world, must reinforce the importance of striving harder to teach about equality, understanding between men and women, respect and gender tolerance. It is one of the best opportunities to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

Teaching the values of equality between men and women and the treatment of men and women as equals through co-education.

For just a few of the many examples available of experiences and educational ideas in this regard, we refer you to the website http://www.educarenigualdad.org/.

Parents too should be taught in schools so that they themselves can teach equality, ensuring that household chores are distributed equally and independently of gender.

Equality should be demonstrated 24 hours a day and taught to parents, educators, social workers and others.

Above all, equality education has to be centred on the principal values upon which it is based, namely the values of understanding, respect and tolerance through gender equality.